

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 140600Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1214

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 3387

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, SA, XF, XO

SUBJECT: PRINCE FAHD TO VISIT KUWAIT, IRAN AND IRAQ; A SAUDI
MONROE DOCTRINE

1. SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD TOLD THE AMBASSADOR MAY 12
THAT HE INTENDED TO MAKE THE TRIP TO KUWAIT, IRAN
AND IRAQ WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED BY THE DEATH
OF KING FAISAL.

2. IN IRAQ HE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON BORDER DEMAR-
CATION. IN IRAN HE WOULD DISCUSS REGIONAL PROBLEMS.
IN BOTH HE WOULD TELL THE LEADERS THAT THE ARAB
PRINCIPALITIES OF THE GULF WERE THE RESPONSIBILITIES
OF SAUDI ARABIA. IT WOULD NOT WISH TO SEE ANY
INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDE POWERS IN THE "SHAIKHDOMS"
(HIS WORD). IF ANY OF THEM SHOULD GO TO IRAN OR

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IRAQ WITH REQUESTS OR COMPLAINTS, BOTH THESE COUNTRIES

SHOULD REFER THEM BACK TO SAUDI ARABIA.

3. THE TRIP TO KUWAIT, HE SAID, WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE URGENT RECENT REQUEST OF THE KUWAITI UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RASHID AL-RASHID, WHO SAID KUWAIT WAS AFRAID OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM THE PROTECTIVE SAUDI COVER AND EXPOSED TO DIRECT THREATS FROM IRAQ AND MORE INDIRECT ONES FROM IRAN. FAHD INCLUDED OMAN BUT NOT NORTH OR SOUTH YEMEN IN HIS NEW DOCTRINE.

4. COMMENT: WHAT FAHD IS TO PROPOSE TO IRAN AND IRAQ IS CONSISTENT WITH THE LONG-STANDING SAUDI ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LESSER ARAB STATES OF THE GULF AND THOUGH IT MAY BE AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF SAUDI WILL, IT DOES NOT CORRESPOND WITH SAUDI MILITARY CAPABILITIES. WERE THE RULER OF ABU DHABI - OR EVEN BAHRAIN - TO ASK SAUDI ARABIA FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, IT WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO PROVIDE ANY. (IT COULD OF COURSE PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.) FAHD RECOGNIZES THIS, AT LEAST TO SOME EXTENT, AND IS INTENT ON INCREASING THE SIZE, IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE TRAINING AND THE SOPHISTICATION OF THE WEAPONRY OF HIS ARMED FORCES. BUT UNLESS MINOR MIRACLES ARE WORKED, SAUDI ARABIA FOR SOME TIME TO COME WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE OR FORCE PROTECTORATE STATUS ON ANY OF THE PERIPHERAL COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, FOR LARGELY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL REASONS, SAUDI ARABIA'S POLITICAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS IRAQ AND IRAN HAS NEVER BEEN STRINGER. WHETHER OR NOT FAHD SUCCEEDS IN GETTING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SAUDI PRIMACY IN THESE AREAS, HIS SENSE OF TIMING IS PROBABLY EXCELLENT.

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